

total of this reserve reached in 1875 about 1,900,000,000 marks (\$475,000,000). The proportion of coin and bullion seldom exceeded one-third of this aggregate. The maximum in 1860 was 77,457,000 thalers (\$58,000,000) and had only reached 99,427,000 thalers in 1870. The rapid increase of the number of branches of the bank scattered over Prussia and the growth of commercial operations led to an increase in the reserve during the last four years of the operations of the bank commensurate with the increase in its circulation and discounts, so that the maximum in 1874 was 239,860,-000 thalers (\$180,000,000) and the minimum was 203,511,000 thalers (\$152,000,000). The Bank of Prussia, in spite of the share which the government enjoyed in its profits, had no monopoly of the right of note issue in the Kingdom. By its side and in competition with its numerous branches existed eight local banks, including one at Berlin, whose united capital was 8,899,000 thalers (\$6,675,000) and which had the right to issue bills to the amount of 7,000,000 thalers, but in no case of a smaller denomination than ten thalers (\$7.50).^{*} The branches of the Bank of Prussia increased from 143 in 1867 to 158 in 1870 and 167 in 1875.[^]

The other German states were not without flourishing banks of issue, which conformed in the general features of their organization to the Bank of Prussia. There were thirty-three German banks in existence, including those of Prussia, when the Imperial Bank was established in 1875. Two of these were commercial banks and one was a territorial bank, the capital in each of these cases being furnished by the municipality or the State and the liabilities constituting a general claim against the government and the community. The others were organized as stock companies. Three of the German banks—the Bank of Bremen, founded in 1856 ; the Bank of Thuringia, founded in 1856 ; and the Bank of Anhalt-Dessau, founded in 1847—^{e^} charters without limit of time, which were regarded as perpetual. The char-

¹ Courcelle-Seneuil, 365.

² Noel, L, 250.